

To: Sylvia Hamilton via email

Date: April 04, 2006

Subject: March 30, 2006 Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Perchlorate Community Advisory Group (PCAG) was held at the San Martin Lions Club, 12415 Murphy Avenue, San Martin, on March 30, 2006 at 2 pm.

I. Pledge

II. Administrative Items

A. Introductions

B. Open Forum –

1. Stewardship for small acreages workshop April 12, 2006
2. Belinda Gail concert at the San Martin Lions Club May 13, 2006

C. March 3rd 2006 Meeting Minutes approved as written

D. Olin Presentation – Ms. Hamilton announced that Rick McClure, Olin Corporation, and his associates from MACTEC will be attending the May 30, 2006 PCAG meeting. Discussion topics include the March 30th 2006 characterization report and the plume migration control assessment report. Ms. Hamilton added that the topics to be discussed are chosen by Olin ahead of time and community members are urged to only ask questions pertaining to those reports. Committee and audience members also suggested other topics such as: a discussion on increasing and decreasing trends, variations in contamination in wells from one season to the other, northeast flow, Olin's immediate plans for the ion-exchange program, and a discussion on the wells that are being cut off from bottled water and what kind of monitoring they will have to ensure the levels stay low. One audience member said she was concerned that according to the map in Olin's last report shows her well to be less than 6ppb but recent data says it has contamination levels of more than 7 ppb.

E. Repository Update- Mr. Cerruti reported that all PCAG agendas, minutes, work plans, monthly status reports, and all submitted Olin reports are up to date in the repositories, except the plume migration control assessment and March 30th characterization report.

F. Belinda Rianda, who regularly comes to all PCAG meetings, recently had a fire destroy her home and is in need of clothing and shoes. If anyone would like to help Belinda please email Ms. Hamilton at sylvialrs@hotmail.com.

III. Presentations/Discussions

A. Gilroy Dispatch & Morgan Hill Times Editorial Staff meeting: Ms. Hamilton met with the editors of the Dispatch and the Times to discuss recent editorials which contained inaccurate information about the Olin case. Both editors are supportive of our efforts and are interested in making sure they are presenting factual information.

B. RWQCB Update:

1. **Alternative Water CAO (Eric Gobler):** On July 2004, the Regional Board (RB) adopted the cleanup order that requires Olin to supply bottled water to residents using wells with perchlorate concentrations above 4ppb. Around the same time California's Office of Environmental Health and Hazard (OEHHA) changed the public health goal

from 4 to 6 ppb. As a result, Olin appealed the original order sent to them by the RB to the State Water Board. In May 2005 the State Water Board directed the RB to require bottled water to residents at levels only greater than 6 ppb. The only way bottled water can be stopped for any particular resident is if 4 consecutive quarters of data are collected with results at 6 ppb or lower. Thus far, Olin has requested to stop bottled water to 78 wells. The Regional Water Board decided to not take any action, which means Olin is still supplying water. However, in May 2006, Olin can come back with another request to stop bottled water to several hundred wells in which they have collected 4 consecutive quarters of data after the May 2005 State Water Board decision. Once Olin has 4 consecutive quarters of data after the May 2005 State Water Board decision, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer has authority to approve Olin's request. If Olin makes a request there will be sufficient public notice and a comment period before anyone gets cut off from their alternative water supply.

Q: If Olin has data for 4 quarters and decide to stop bottled water, what happens if there is a drought and the levels come back up?

A: The RB will make sure that a good monitoring system is put in place to ensure the quality of the drinking water.

Ms. Hamilton added that it is important to understand when Olin meets all the criteria to stop bottled water, then the RB's Executive Officer has to no choice but to allow them to go through with stopping water distribution. Monitoring is crucial and is where the RB has options to require Olin to do more or less. In addition, there are different monitoring requirements for wells based on concentration and distance to other contaminated wells.

Q: Mr. Cerruti stated that both the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Olin have sampled his well and there are a lot of variations in the results.

A: Ms. Tryon responded that sample variability is normal when you take groundwater samples even a day or so apart. You can do split samples for more accurate results. All labs have strict requirements with their sampling and analyzing. An audience member added that she has a well with a contamination level of 10 ppb and does split samples with Olin. Her results match Olin's results very well.

Q: How can residents with contaminated wells be cut off of alternative water when this variability exists?

A: The RB will need to ensure the monitoring program is adequate to detect changes in water quality now and in the future.

2. **Characterization Report Components (Thea Tryon):** – The characterization report states that 9 monitoring wells have been installed, each with multiple screen intervals. The highest perchlorate concentrations can be found in the shallow and intermediate aquifers within a mile or two of the Olin site.

Q: What is the process of having bottled water redelivered once it has been cut off if contamination levels exceed 6 ppb? Would one high detection make them turn on water for 4 consecutive quarters of monitoring? How will families be affected in between those times that bottled water is cut off and levels are detected again? Mr. Craig O'Donnell added that Assemblymen John Laird's office is also very concerned about this issue.

A: One detection above 6 ppb is sufficient to have bottled water service resumed. The State Water Board didn't provide for bottled water service when concentrations are near

but below 6 pbb. That is another reason the monitoring program needs to be carefully designed.

Q: If we test our own wells, does the data also count in making a determination?

A: Yes, the data will count.

Q: When Olin cuts off water for 78 wells how much money will they be saving?

A: I do not have that information

Ms. Hamilton added that after speaking to Rick McClure, he is concerned and wanted to make the process of stopping bottled water to 78 people go more smoothly. There is a lot of information which people interpret the wrong way and Olin wants to make sure the letter states it clearly who and what is involved in stopping water and how it complies with the State Water Board's Order. People should know the requirements and whether or not they meet them. Many audience members complained that they are not receiving sampling results from Olin unless they ask for them. The RB staff encouraged those residents to give them their name and well number so they can look into the problem more. Residents emphasized that sending this information is Olin's responsibility and they do not want to be burdened or have the agencies burdened with additional responsibilities. Ms. Hamilton pointed out that Rick McClure has ordered for the information to get out to all residents that have their wells tested. An audience member suggested that Olin have a hotline where people can call and get that information and they should not be taking the Water Boards time and effort.

Q: Why isn't someone representing homeowners in contacting Olin? Why isn't the Santa Clara Valley Water District getting results from Olin and providing homeowners with the information?

A: The problem is that no one can tell Olin to fix a problem if they do not know where the disconnect is.

Q: Is it a requirement for Olin to provide homeowners with sampling results?

A: It is not stated in any order but it is appropriate and the RB will rediscuss the subject with Olin.

Q: Is there any reason why we cannot stipulate this to an existing order?

A: Best way for the RB to address it is when revising the monitoring program

3. **Plume Migration Control Assessment Report** – The report describes four areas of the plume. The general trend throughout the plume is a decrease in concentrations. As a result, migration control will not be required in three of the four areas. The only area which might get migration control will be the one closest to the plume. The characterization report, which came out today, the plume migration control assessment report, and the feasibility study are all tied together.

Q: The decrease of concentration is over what time period?

A: 1st quarter of 2004 through 4th quarter of 2005

Q: Are you going to be considering rainy seasons that are not included in the above time period? Will you increase the time of the study to address this?

A: The need for corrective action, including plume migration, will be continuously reevaluated as new data comes in. The RB will evaluate all reports and will use all sets of data to make their determinations.

Q: What would stop perchlorate from continuing to spread?

A: Groundwater pumping could be contributing..

Ms. Tryon stated that even though the trends are decreasing right now, there will still be monitoring. If concentrations go back up, the RB will act accordingly. She also stated that the Regional Water Board receives and reviews all well testing results.

Ms. Hamilton added that federal law states that water is a public resource and needs to be protected. This law is also implemented at the State level with the State Water Board's Ant-Degradation Policy, which establishes a policy to that the high quality of waters in the State shall be maintained and that cleanup goals should be background water quality levels.

Q: Are you still trying to determine if there are background levels of perchlorate in the area?

A: Yes, Thomas Mohr, Santa Clara Valley Water District, is working on that.

4. Olin Site Soil and Groundwater Cleanup: Soil cleanup is ongoing and there have not been any significant improvements but it is too early to tell effects. According to Olin Corporation, the treatment is working as it should be. Olin is operating the onsite reinjection system now, where treated water is injected back into the aquifer.

5. Northeast Flow- Mr. Hernandez reported and he and his staff are currently evaluating data to determine who is responsible for the Nordstrom well contamination. They are waiting for the characterization report, which has additional background on the issue.

It is important that all community members educate themselves on all aspects of this issue so that we can make informed decisions.

Mr. Gobler stated that he appreciates the discussion but encourages all community members to contact the RB sooner and not to wait until the PCAG meetings to voice concerns. The RB staff is always available for any questions.

C. Domestic Well Ion-Exchange Systems Update –

1. Implementation Progress- Ms. Hamilton spoke to Rick McClure and received the following numbers: 11 domestic wells that have ion-exchange systems and are operational. 4 wells are in progress and should be up shortly, 13 are being evaluated for systems, and 1 is waiting for an access agreement. All 39 wells are over 10 ppb and will be candidates for receiving ion-exchange systems but no promises can be made because it depends on the trends. There is a long process involved to modify access agreement.

Testing Protocol/Certification Process Status: US Filter submitted their plan to Department of Health Services (DHS) and DHS made comments and sent it back. One of the issues is how the systems will be operated and monitored to ensure that the treatment system is removing perchlorate with contributing to other water quality changes.

Q: How do they determine how often to change of the filters?

A: This issue is addressed in the proposal., and is based on water flow and water quality monitoring.

Mr. O'Donnell commented that if DHS takes too long to let Assemblyman John Laird's office know.

This is the first time DHS has done something like this and they have worked hard to provide this for the community. They also accelerated the process for certifying RO systems for perchlorate removal.

Q: What should be done with RO cartridges filled with perchlorate?

A: Perchlorate is not trapped in the filter but goes into the septic system.

IV. Additional Topics

A. *Community Outreach* - We need help with community outreach and are soliciting volunteers.

B. *PWG* – At their last meeting the PWG discussed many of the same issues that were discussed at this PCAG meeting.

C. ***Water District Federal Grants & Project Planning update*** – progress is made on background and we will be going out for bids soon.

V. Next Meeting – Friday, February 3rd from 2- 4 pm (No Meeting in January 2006)

Meeting was adjourned

Minutes submitted by Zohra Karimi